



TIGHTWIRE



Seasons Greetings

from the

editors & contributors of

Lightwire



THE NEW TIGHTWIRE
November - December, 1976
Volume II - Edition VI

The TIGHTWIRE is a publication printed every second month, presented by the inmates of the Prison for Women, Kingston, Ontario. We wish to dissolve the barriers of physical imprisonment by sharing our attempts to free ourselves from the mental bondages that engulf us. Our printed words are meant to educate, not alienate you. They are the expressed thoughts, feelings, ideas and attitudes which issue forth from the brains of a writer. These are her/his sole possessions and wings toward freedom. Therefore, the contents herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the administration. We welcome advice or criticism from you, the reader, and will be happy to print your articles or letters. Materials presented in the TIGHTWIRE may be re-printed providing credit is given to the original author.

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D. F. Martin

Carolyn Moore

Caro Walters - Guest Artist



Subscription Rate: Six Issues - \$2.00

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TIGHTWIRE NEEDS YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Poetry***Sports***Fiction***Features

Please make sure your work is original
or the author and publication noted.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi B.J. and all you suffering sisters

I wans't going to but then decided why not having read your 'Tightwire' March/April three times so far I have enough mental images to write and say hello at least and congratulate you all on a nicely put together mag. The first time I read it I think it inspired or provoked me or something 'cos next thing I knew was I had written a few lines of my own. Pretty amazing really as I've been in a mental fog since I landed in this shit ten months ago, so thank you all for the spiritual stimulation it gave me to overcome my apathy. I particularly enjoyed Caro Walters' PUTANA - is she still there? - for the nostalgic visions it threw up of the Al, Archway, Hendon, The North, Busy Bee and also for the tender but nasty way she sucked his spirit (Mike's) away. Also Beda's WITH SYMPATHY. It really is a break to read and feel a female mind when one's surrounded by this 'macho madness' as I call it - if anything is going to tip the 'balance of my mind' it's that, the rest I can put up with (I think). I gather from Jade that you've quite a large group of internationals - it certainly makes things easier to have a few kindred spirits around - there aren't that many here right now but there will be later, a couple of Austrians (good friends from the bucket) and some Swiss. Say hello again to Krista - she may not remember but we rode in the van (segregated of course) together the day I got sentenced. An extra special hello to anyone from England or Amsterdam and if anyone feels like writing ('Pen'-Pals) feel free (Excuse puns)

"Dag", Roswitha and anyone else
from A'dam, Europe or the rest
of the real world

Love and Peace
Ken

Tightwire comrades

Do you ever change the cover? I think folks will think it's the same issue all the time and not read it. I myself was fooled for some months.

You should also include on your mailing list The Toronto 1WW-GOC (leaflet included).

If you know of any female prisoners who want pen pals or co-response please let me know our prison list is all male and some non-sexist brother would like to write.

Take care, Love & Anarchy
red wartham

Dear Mz:

I came across your interesting journal after our recent visit to Kingston and enjoyed it very much. Please place my name on your subscription list.

Thank you.

Yours truly,
P.D. Gatfield, M.D.

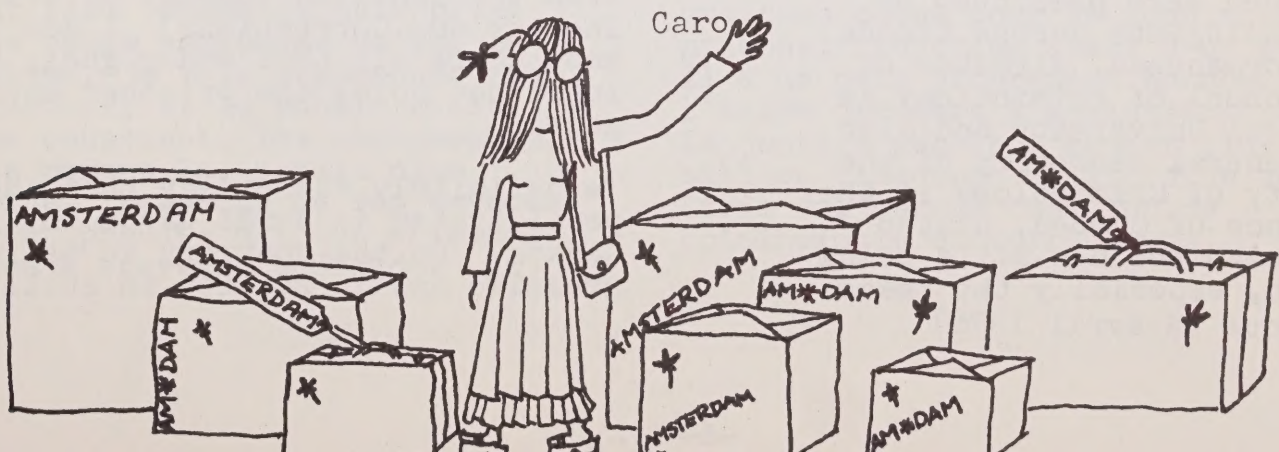
BAMBOLEE....!

Even though I wasn't asked to I am gonna do a Ta-Ta, Bye-Bye page. Since I have been a regular contributor to Tightwire with stories, articles and occasionally art work, I feel that I have earned the privilege. So here goes....

I have heard rumous lately that this paper is considered to be one of the best joint efforts in North America, and, reading the papers from all over Canada and the States, I have to agree. So keep on keeping on making Tightwire a strong and informative paper. It is important. We are a small minority (being women plus prisoners) and we need to shout to be heard above the men. We need to shout for equal opportunities in prison. For useful job training, for more half-way house accomodation, for a better share in the federal financial allotments, for more meaningful programs, etc. Tightwire is one of the only ways we have to speak out. The paper is read in Canada, the States, Mexico, Denmark, Holland and England. Our words are read by many.

Get on your favorite hobby horse and write about it. Legalization of pot; prison conditions; abortion laws; how you feel; your stories, poems and fantasies. Draw some pictures and cartoons. But do something. It is a real buzz to see your stuff in print.

That's it. I have said my piece. Hopefully by the time you read this I'll be home safe and sound in Amsterdam, Holland! I might even try to write a piece for this paper from there.....but then again.....!



RIOTS...HOSTAGES...ESCAPES...

by D. F. Martin

Sitting at the jail school wondering how to change the world... I feel so many incapacities and limitations, due to this prison..locked away...serious business, isn't it. Yes, prison is serious and in a world of its own.

With all the demonstrations going down in other institutions, I feel that it is about time Tight-wire took a stand....therefore, we agree with the demonstrations that are happening...we believe in what the prisoners are asking for on the institutional level (better living conditions, etc.) and on the humanitarian level: contact visits, transfers from one prison to another so they can be near their families, more human treatment of the guards towards the prisoners, for example, abolishment of fear methods such as the use of gas and segregation units.

Thus far, the inmates have, in making their needs known, acted in a peaceful and rational manner. For more than a year, constant demands for meetings with proper authorities and officials have been asked. A few have occurred; very few demands have been met or answered. As I am caught up in the system, I will argue its injustice. If the public was aware enough also, changes would come about faster.

A lot of the riots which have happened were predicted by criminologists across Canada. Mr. Normandeau, director of the school of criminology in Montreal University and also the general secretary of the Society of Criminology in the Province of Quebec, stated * that with the new Bills being passed, especially the Peace *Le Jour (5 avril 1976)

and Security Bill, the new 25 year sentencing to replace the death penalty is nothing more than a new masked death. It is certain that with a 25 year sentence without parole, the incarcerated individual has no more hope. Mr. Normandeau predicted that the inmates would react against the staff and that there would be hunger strikes, blackmail, riots, hostage-taking, murder and escape.

The tension that is building up in the prisons of Canada should be dealt with with great concern...the prisoners are asking to be treated as human beings. Are you the public aware that we have no rights?

Building super maximum prisons will solve the problems of escape and riot says Solicitor General Francis Fox. In actuality it will not solve anything, it will only create more tension. If nothing is done for the prisoners except to lock them up 20 on 24 hours, the tension is bound to reach the friends, families and associates of the inmate population. Eventually drastic action will be taken outside the penitentiaries and touch the population in general.

I think that it is about time that the government did something regarding the prison population. Crime also has a price. It has a price properly economic, last year the administration of the penal justice cost more than one billion five hundred millions of dollars. (taken from the Canadian Journal of Criminology and Corrections) I don't know where all that money goes, but it is not doing the prisoner any good.

We definitely cannot say that the penal system is avant garde in Canada. On the contrary it is regressive and in reality is still

using beginning of the century methods. Millions of dollars are spent in abstract theoretical research. What we need is a concrete, humane and realistic approach.

EMEUTES - OSTAGES - EVASIONS

by D. F. Martin

Assise à la prison me demandant comment changer le monde. Je sens tellement d'incapacité et de limitation due à cette prison, enfermé, affaire sérieuse n'est ce-pas. Oui la prison c'est sérieux et dans un monde à lui-même.

Avec toute les manifestations qui s'ensuive dans les autres institutions je sens qu'il est temps que notre journal Tightwire prenne parti. En effet nous sommes d'accord avec les manifestations qui occurent dans les penitenciers canadien, nous croyions et appuyions les demandes des détenus qui sont au niveau d'institution (construction, état, et âge des prisons) et au niveau humanitaire, visites, contacts, transferts d'une prison a une autre prison pour être près de leur famille, traitement plus humain de gardes envers les détenus (emploi du gaz, méthode de peur, ségrégation).

Ça fait déjà longtemps que les détenus reagissent pacifique. Depuis environs un ans des rencontres avec officiel ont été demandé quelque une ont eu lieu, mais les changements ou sont ils? Comme je suis prise dans cette engrenage qu'est le système, je vais argumenter son injustice, si le public etait plus conscient, les changements, a ce moment la, serait plus rapide. Beaucoup de ses émeutes furent predite par des criminologues à travers le Canada. En

autre M. Normandeau directeur de l'école de criminologie de l'Université de Montreal et secretaire général de la société de criminologie de la province de Quebec

A dit qu'avec les nouveaux projets de loi, spécialement le programme d'ordre et de sécurité public, le nouveau sentencing de 25 ans qui remplace la peine de mort, n'est qu'une nouvelle peine de mort masquée. Il est certain qu'une telle sentence enlève tout espoir a l'individu incarcéré.

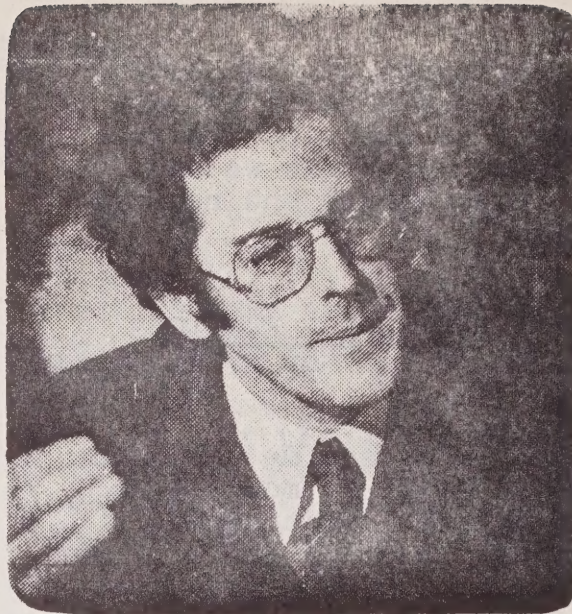
M. Normandeau a predit que les détenus reagirait contre le personel, et qu'il y aurait une série de graive de faim, de chantage, d'émeute de sabotage, de prise d'otage, d'assault grave, de meutre et d'évasion. La tension qui existe et continu dans les penitenciers devrait être considere avec interêt. Les détenus demandent a être traité humainement. Est-ce que le public est conscient que nous n'avons aucun droit.....

Construire des super-maximum regleras les problemes d'évasions et d'émeutes a dit dans un communiqué le solliciteur general M. Francis Fox. Mais moi-même je sais que ça ne regleras rien, au contraire ça créeras plus de tension. Si rien ne peut être fait pour les prisonniers excepte de les enfermé 20h sur 24h, la tension toucheras alors le publique qui est près des détenus c'est a dire les amis, les associés, les familles. Eventuellement des actions rigoureuses seront prises en dehors des penitenciers et toucherons le public en general. Je pense qu'il est temps que le gouvernement fasse quelques chose pour la population des prisons. Le crime aussi a un prix. Il a un prix proprement économique, l'année dernière l'administration de la justice pénale à couter plus d'un billion cinq-cent millions de dollars. (pris du journal canadien de criminologie et corrections)

Je ne sais pas ou cette argent
va mais ça nous fait certainement
aucun bien.

On ne peut definitivement pas dire
que la système penal est d'avant
garde au Canada....

Au contraire il est regressif et
en réalite nous sommes encore au
méthode du commencement du siècle.
Des millions de dollars sont
dépendre en recherche theorique...
Ce que nous avons de besoin est
une approche concrete, humaine
et realiste.



JOURNAL DE
MONTREAL.

WIG
STANDARD

Milhaven Nov 76.

DEATH

Five prisoners died of smoke in a fire, Saturday the 18th of December in the Stratford Jail. Four of them were teenagers. They did not die in the middle of the night, when response to the unexpected might be slow, but in the late afternoon. A host of questions surrounds what happened. The proper person to answer such questions is the man responsible for the provincial prison system, Minister of Correctional Affairs, John Smith and Mr. Smith did try to answer.

At least twice Coroner A.J. MacDonald tried to stop Mr. Smith. Finally Dr. MacDonald said, "I have nothing to say. And..." turning to Mr. Smith.... "I'm sure you haven't." The press conference ended abruptly.

Since when did an appointed coroner gain the right to silence an elected Minister in the pursuit of his duty?

When people are sent to prison, they lose the power to protect themselves. It becomes the responsibility of the prison authorities to protect them against others and against themselves. Something went wrong in Stratford. The Minister was prepared to discuss the situation. If he had been older and a more experienced man, faced by a less authoritarian person than Dr. MacDonald, he would have continued the discussion. The relatives of the five dead prisoners would not have been left to guess at what happened.

But the coroner says, in effect, that they can go on guessing until a coroner's inquest is held on January 6th.

It is bad business when, in a tragedy involving five deaths and the public responsibility, an appointed person can tell a Minister of an elected government to hold his tongue, and be obeyed. Like the fire itself, such situations can only be ventilated by openness. (taken from Globe and Mail Dec. 21/76)

INTERVIEW AT P4W
Wednesday, December 8, 1976

D. Frederica Martin and Carolyn Moore of Tightwire staff
B. J. Beasley, Recorder

1. Why Couldn't a Member of the Parole Board come for the Interview?

It is difficult to get a Parole Board member to go to an interview because they are either appearing on the Board or they have paper work and it's hard for them to have the time.

2. What are Your Roles in the Parole Service?

I am ThereseLeBlanc, Supervisor of Case Management. I supervise management of cases that come before the Board. It is my responsibility to see that a parole interview had been conducted, a panel date set and appropriate persons notified, that the decision given is appropriate and that all appropriate persons are notified of the decision given. Questions concerning individual cases also cross my desk i.e. if a Parole Officer has a question concerning a specific case, I am one of the five Supervisors of Case Management in Canada who would be responsible for seeing that the question is answered.

I am Lynn Collins, Correspondence and Information Officer. If you send a letter asking when your parole is up, etc. and if your family writes for inquiries I am the one who answers.

3. What Does the Parole Board Want to Know at the Panel Hearing?

The Parole Board will usually ask such questions as what you are planning to do. Why did you get involved? What are you going to do on the outside that will keep you out of trouble? Every interviewer must have

their particular way of getting to know you. Their questions are sometimes meant to test your reactions. The thing you have to realize is the Parole Officer and the Board members can't predict what you will do tomorrow but they can give an educated guess from your past behavior that it looks like this.... she looks like she can handle it whereas before in her past she may not have been able to. The Parole Board must determine not only if it is to the advantage of the person if she is released. It's not just a question of "are we throwing a 'devil' back to society" but "is it good for the person?" Is she better prepared to make it on the street? Has she got all she can out of prison? One of the things inmates should consider is to give us some credit for intelligence. I think the best an inmate can do is just be honest.

4. If a Woman is Sentenced to Federal Time and Her Home is in Another Province Why Does the Parole Board Seem to Insist That She Finish Her Remaining Time in Ontario? Do They Feel That a Woman's Family is a Bad Influence on Her and if so, Why?

If you are from a small town and you are really criminally involved and you have connections there you might get into trouble. You have to convince the Parole Board that your criminal activities were committed there but that you need to go back there and that you can make it. The Parole Board is leery of a person going back to the area where they have always been in trouble. If you have a good job there, it's your home and you have people willing to help you, that may outweigh the fact that your crime(s) were committed there. The most important thing in a parole case is your own attitude. What are you willing to give

up to make it! Regions differ depending on the size someone in Toronto will get revoked for something that they wouldn't get revoked for in St. Johns, Newfoundland. Very often the revocation is for something that the parolees have been warned about before. It is usually because of something the parolee has been doing. It depends a lot on what the person's up to. It is very rare that they are just revoked like that. Besides, it has to be documented. The Parole Officer has to put on file why the parolee has been revoked.

5. What if a Woman's Husband is Labelled "Organized Crime" Would it be Difficult for Her to be Paroled Home to Her Husband?

You have to distinguish between organized and syndicated crime. It is a loosely used term. If the husband is known to be actively involved in criminal activity it would be a lousy plan and you would likely not be granted parole, but.... they would be objective. It might turn out that you could be a positive influence. They are very realistic and they look at all angles. When you are talking about the Board, you must realize that they have a lot of experience with inmates and they know when you're giving them a snow job.

6. The Parole Board Has in Some Cases Been Insensitive When Speaking With Inmates and Has Often Given Vague Reasons for Denial or Deferral, Why?

It is certainly not their intention, but there are things which are unavoidable. Say the Parole Board has 15 interviews, naturally the person who draws the 15th won't receive the sensitivity that the first interviewee would simply because it's human nature. The only

times the Parole Board is reluctant to tell you the reason you are denied or deferred is if they have confidential information which is verified. Your temporary absence performance is very important when Day Parole and Parole are taken into consideration.

7. Would You Please Explain What You Mean by "Confidential" Information?

Employees of the National Parole Service and the Parole Board members have general access to your files although there are some files which contain information which is inaccessible to even me. There are levels of confidentiality. There are files with documents inside them marked "confidential". There are files with confidential information locked in the safe of the Board and there are files so confidential they are locked and stored in Ottawa. The Parole Board will not release reasons for denials or deferrals to family members or friends, i.e. mother or father unless the inmate has first written a letter giving the Board permission to do so. From time to time the Board receives "confidential information" from some individual who has knowledge of the inmate. For example, an inmate's wife may report that he drinks heavily while on his social outings although his pass specifically stipulates NO DRINKING; or an inmate may go beyond the 25 mile radius while on a social outing; or an inmate may have committed a criminal offense unknown to the police but known to family and friends. When information such as this is brought to the attention of the Parole Board an attempt is made to verify it. If true, the Parole Board has the responsibility of protecting the individual who gave the information from the possible wrath of the inmate. Therefore the information is marked confidential and it is possible that an inmate's parole could be deferred or denied because of this knowledge.

8. How Much Notice Does the Parole Board Take of Institutional Reports When Making Their Decisions?

The institutional report is important because it tells the Board what your current attitude is, how well you get along with others, whether or not you have been charged inside. At the Panel Hearing your C.O. and the Parole Officer are there so they can update the institutional report.

9. Does the Parole Board Take the Recommendations of the Trial Judge into Consideration, eg. Recommending Early Parole, Staying in Home Province Although Sentenced to Federal Time, Etc.?

Yes they do. It is taken into consideration along with everything else. It is considered along with the rest of the package when an inmate is considered for parole. Whatever is on file --we call it "Representation on Behalf of the Inmate". The most important things on your file would be (1) judge's comments if any, (2) your police record, (3) community assessment, (4) parole officer's interview, (5) institutional record, (6) assessment from the doctor if you're under psychiatric care (we must obtain permission from you to have access to this information). The most influential of these depends on the individual case. The Parole Officer prepares an overall assessment evaluating the "assets" against the "liabilities" and then gives a recommendation. As far as women staying in their home province doing federal time I personally think they will build some other federal institutions for women. In the meantime, I think they may put many women into provincial prisons to accommodate them. A lot has to do with the general mentality of the people in the community as to

whether or not they will accept the building of prisons or institutions in their vicinity but I think that is what will have to happen.

10. How Does the Parole Board Feel as to the Status of Non-Canadians (Deportables) in Relation to the Different Types of Releases Available as Compared to Canadian Convicts?

The hassles with someone who is deportable i.e. on day parole programs, are that they cannot work because they can't get working papers. They are eligible for anything that they don't need working papers for. A person not a Canadian citizen is not eligible for student loans because they are not citizens, therefore there is a financial problem.

11. Don't You Feel This is Discrimination?

This is not really discrimination on the part of the Parole Board. It may be on the part of the school administrators who aren't willing to give student loans to foreigners. The hassle with the non-Canadian is that they may be caught between the Parole Service and the Immigration Department. The Parole Board is under the jurisdiction of Immigration in cases of foreign prisoners.

12. How Does the Parole Board Feel About the Exchange - of - Prisoners?

The problem with the exchange-of-prisoners is that a person can't get sentenced or do time in their mother country for what they have done in another country unless some specific legal arrangement is set up.

13. What Are the Feelings of the Parole Board Regarding "Soft Dope"? Are They Inclined to Regard Soft Drug in the Same Light as Opiate Offenses?

It is hard for the Parole Board to recommend on the question of law, to say that 7 years is too much of a minimum sentence to charge for importation of soft drugs. However,

the Board recognizes that some change is necessary, they are concerned that there is no leeway to allow for the judge's discretion in individual cases. They are concerned about the Peace and Security Bill's eliminating the Parole by Exception which had been used primarily for the 7 year minimum cases. They felt the law concerning the 7 year minimum would be changed thus eliminating the need for Parole by Exception. Right now the Parole Board is again looking at Parole by Exception for the 7 year minimum sentences since the Bill to lower the sentences for soft drug offenses has not been passed and the half of the Peace and Security Bill which includes the Parole by Exception clause has not gone through.

14. What Do They Consider Parole by Exception?

Exceptional is hard to define, because they are exceptional. One reason would be that it could be used when an extreme medical condition exists of self. With the extensive use of Day Parole (5/2, 6/1, 7/0) use of institutional community residential centres and community correctional centres (Portsmouth), parole by exception is rarely used because it is not needed.

15. Does the Convicted Heroin Addict Jeopardize Her Chances for Parole by Not Having Treatment While Incarcerated? Does the Parole Board Know That Treatment Programming Here is Almost Non-Existent?

Certainly your case would look better if you had treatment. The realization that programs are not easily available is taken into consideration. Certainly treatment would enhance your case but if it is

not available then the lack of treatment shouldn't affect your case. Your provided plan for release should counterbalance this.

16. I Know Personally of 4 Heroin Addicts in the Building Who On Their Parole Eligibility Date Were Deferred Does This Not Reflect Some Underlying Attitude Toward Heroin Addicts?

If anyone wants to know why they have been denied or deferred they should write because how else can they know. A person can be denied or deferred if it is felt she hasn't dealt with her problems on the outside or coped with them adequately eg. A woman's parole plan is to go live with her boyfriend and the Parole Board has knowledge that the boyfriend is living with some other woman and has no intentions of re-establishing a relationship with the imprisoned woman. You should really think about your plan before you put it down on paper. It takes about 3 to 4 months to complete your case especially if your plan is to go outside Kingston. It is wise to really think of your plan before you write it down. It is awkward to change plans in midstream. You can change your plans but if you do it a month before your panel hearing date you will probably be postponed to another date.

17. We Know of Only One Treatment Centre for Addicts in Canada, Portage in Quebec. Does the Parole Board Recognize this Centre for Federal Parolees and Do They Consider It a Qualified Plan for Parole?

They certainly recognize the Portage Centre as a viable treatment centre. In regards to it being a plan for some type of Parole Release, they also see it as feasible. However, the difficulties that might arise would be concerning the particular inmates Parole Eligibility Date, especially when a long sentence is considered. Another difficulty the Members have foreseen is the lengthy commitment of a person must make to the Portage Centre. However,

even with these problems an inmate could certainly apply for a Release program to Portage Centre, and if acceptable, could receive such a release.

Another treatment Centre has opened North of Toronto; the name of it is "Street Haven" (If you are interested in obtaining information on this Centre there are informational booklets posted in the Wing T.V. room and in front of the medical barrier)

18. How Does the Parole Board Feel in Regard to the Proposed 25 Year Minimum For Murder?

If it is a law then they can't question what's been passed by Parliament, however, they do hope that it will be reduced in the foreseeable future.

19. When Would Those Sentenced Under the 25 Year Minimum for Murder Be Eligible for Temporary Absences?

They would not be eligible for temporary absences prior to three years before their parole eligibility date. This could be after they have served 22 years in prison. This is my opinion (Therese LeBlanc) not the Parole Board's but I think people can think ahead for 7 years but they can't think ahead for 22 years so the onus will be on the penitentiary system to do something for these people and initiate some long-term programs to keep these people going.

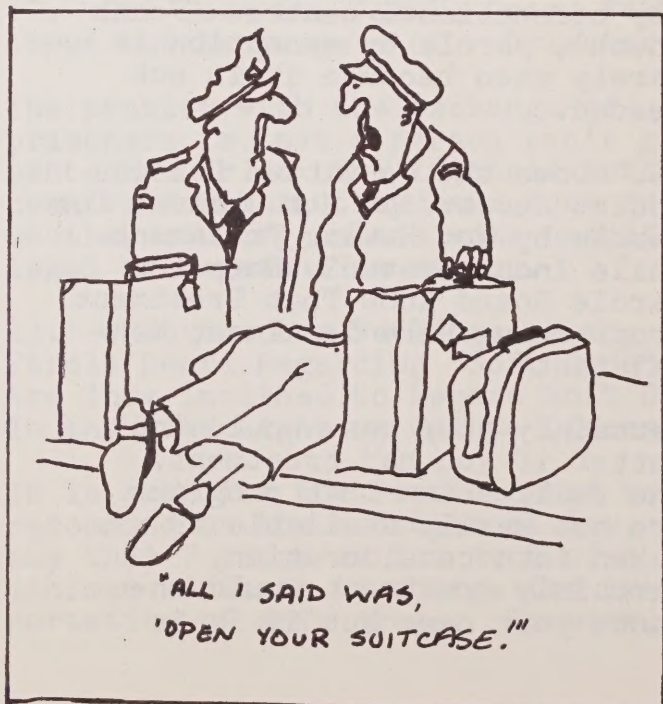
The parole eligibility date can be **appealed** after 15 years for review.

20. How Soon is the Completed Peace and Security Bill Expected to be Passed, Particularly the Amendment Concerning the Release of Inmates, Remission and Mandatory Super-

vision and What Plans are the Parole Board Making?

A portion of the Peace and Security Bill died in the summer and they will have to begin again taking the various amendments through the Committee, it could happen that they will be defeated. If it passes the way it is now the Board would have the discretion of crediting good time to an inmate who has served a portion of her parole successfully on the street before being pulled. Now she/he loses the good street time automatically. With only half the Bill passed, the Board is making a "recommendation" for lifers to be granted their T.A.'s but the authority is still in the hands of the institutional director. If the new Bill is passed there will be all kinds of classifications, length of sentence, violent crime, etc. These will all have ramifications so the new way of clarifying the number of votes needed for parole will be determined by the length of sentence.

N.B. The following interview was typed and sent to the Parole Board for approval. While there Marg Benson and John Steinberg also put their comments to it which were added to this copy.



HOT FLASHES...HOT FLASHES...HOT FLASHES...

According to behaviorist psychologist, James V. McConnel, of the University of Michigan the power to restructure the entire personality of prisoners is within society's grasp at last and the appropriate therapies are either already underway or in the planning stages at prisons across the country.

He says, " I believe the day has come when we can combine sensory deprivation with drugs, hypnosis and astute manipulation of reward and punishment to gain absolute control over an individual's behavior." He goes on to say, "We should reshape our society so that we all would be trained from birth to want to do what society wants us to do. We have the technologies now to do it.... No one owns his own personality....You had no say about what kind of personality you acquired and there is no reason to believe you should have the right to refuse to acquire a new personality if your old one is anti-social."

Clitorectomy: Female circumcision is the popular but technically incorrect name most frequently used for a variety of genital mutilation of female children and young girls. At the present time these damaging operations are widely practiced all over Africa by many different population groups and documented in the medical and ethnographic literature.

Definition: Removal of the entire clitoris and labia minora as well as part of the labia majora. The two sides of the vulva are then closed over the vagina except for a small opening posteriorly to allow passage of urine and menstrual blood.

Woman who are infibulated have to be cut open to allow intercourse and they have to be cut open further to permit delivery of a child. Sometimes they are closed up again after delivery. The decision rests with the husband, who has several wives.

The purpose is to reduce sexual response in women and prepare girls for marriage; their only career. Morality and faithfulness are reasons often given. Men refuse to marry women unless they are excised, thus, there is no alternative. It is believed that women who are not operated on cannot have children (a woman's worth depends on the number of children she has.) Many people believe excision is a custom decreed by the ancestors, therefore it must be complied with believing terrible harm befalls anyone who opposes the wishes of the ancestors. Without excision a girl cannot become an adult member of the tribe and society.

Excerpt from Women's International Network News. If you would like to support the struggle against clitoridectomy, please write to:

Fran Hoskin, Editor Win 187 Grant Street Lexington, Ma
02173 U.S.A.

taken from The Other Woman (canadian feminist)

MANUAL SKILLS TO BE LEARNED

by Rose Wu

Since I wrote my article six months ago supporting pottery technology in this prison, we have not yet had the chance of working in it yet as they decided to move the workshop from the 'little house' to the basement and then had to fix the sprinkler system. Now that the sprinkler system is completed, we may expect the workshop to be set up and opened "soon" the officials said. In fact, I noticed three new pieces of equipment in the little room near the stairs of the ground floor: a large electric potter's wheel, a small enamel kiln and a large mould casting bench with a clay mixing motor attached to it. I hope they will fix the workshop soon, as I do feel very deeply the inadequate chances for inmates (most of them in their twenties and thirties) to learn manual skills.

Some thirty to forty inmates (out of a hundred) are taking upgrading in the prison school. Some of them would certainly enjoy taking two afternoons out to learn manual skills.

Apart from the sewing room and the kitchen which teach only rudimentary skills, there are still a large number of inmates who would gladly be involved in learning manual skills either full or part time.

What I am thinking of is a fully-opened pottery workshop and the re-opening of the 'little house' as a Home Economics Centre for the initiation of finer cooking and home crafts such as knitting, crocheting and sewing, etc. The setting is perfect for such purposes. The 'little house' can be refur-

nished with a refrigerator and stove, table and chairs so that the inmates may once again enjoy learning and practicing home crafts. In this prison, I do feel an over emphasis is put on the superficial rather than the substantial. For instance, an over emphasis on doing hair (some curl and dye their hair quite often) rather than the home crafts such as I have already mentioned. These are much more important for keeping family and groups together.

Again, by comparison, pottery is substantial in that inmates, given the chance to learn, can make cups, pitchers, bowls, tea and coffee pots and mould casts all of which can be used in daily life. A practical skill which they may further develop after leaving prison or a manual skill that initiates the practical ideas of life. Pottery is creative whereas in comparison batik is decorative. The fabric is ready by itself to be made into clothes, but instead they dye or print extra patterns on it. It is evidently a decorative art.

I am sure that many inmates will agree with me that no matter what department they now belong they would welcome these two advocated departments:

Pottery Workshop

and

Fine Cooking and Home Crafts

in the 'little house' to be opened and available for their full time choice or part time involvement.

People don't live by words alone; we live by proper actions. Heed not the sweet promises of the future think of life in terms of the present.

Mexico - Since early this year when more and more grisly news of the torture of 'gringos' (foreigners) in Mexican jails filtered through to the world, the people have been demanding action and the action is starting in earnest.

Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger went there and brought back official reports of beastiality inflicted on the gringos in attempts to extract confessions. The prisoners were, for example, being stripped naked, doused in water and given electric shock using cattle prods applied to their genitals. Having made their confessions, they were put on remand for years at a time; finally being sentenced to exceptionally long sentences. But now America is making great strides in developing a 'Prisoner Exchange' system whereby Americans incarcerated in Mexican joints are to be exchanged with Mexicans serving time in American prisons.

Since the exchange system was suggested early this year, the proposed exchanges are quickly becoming reality. The main reason for the speed in making the negotiations is the fact that it is of great importance to have the details sorted out before the present benevolent President, Luis Echeverria, leaves office on December 1st. He and his ministry are apparently in favour of the proposals whereas the new President, Lopez Pontillo, may not be.

In a letter I received recently from the women's jail in Mexico, I was told '...about a week ago we organized another hunger strike that was to take off on September 7th. It was to show people how desperate we are to

come home and all the foreign prisoners in Mexico are going to participate.

On Sunday night, September 5th, we were informed by the fourth highest government official in Mexico, Dr. Sergio Garcia Ramirez, that the President of Mexico had signed two very important papers that morning! One is a constitutional amendment that will allow the President to sign prisoner exchange agreements with foreign governments. The other is a legislation that will allow drug violators to qualify for 'preparatoria' (a type of parole that states that we only have to serve 3/5ths of our sentence).

The next day crews of social workers and whatnots showed up to start our "checking out process", which entails talking to shrinks and doctors in general, showing that we are ready to leave, And oboy, are we ready to leave!

The day after the administration gave us night visits with our old men at the other prisons. What a trip that was. It kinda seems that they're getting ready for the outside world by letting us be with our men all night....'ya know, breaking us in slowly.

On Monday, September 13th, Mr. Munroe Leigh from the State Department came down to begin negotiations for a prisoner exchange agreement!

And then yesterday (September 15th) we found out that the President of Mexico might just deport everyone and end it all there. But in any event we should all be leaving fairly soon!!!!

Today we finally got it straight on how to compute our checking out time. You see we have all these time reductions for this and that and when we figured it all up I found that I can leave, time served,

go FREE by about November 1st.
..or at the very latest by mid
December!!!

What a shock it was for me to
come to this conclusion...I
mean not two months ago I was
looking at two more years
(after nearly 2 years remand time.
(C.W.)) and all of a sudden I'm
stone free in less than 2 months.'

(From Bartz: Mexico, September
17th, 1976)

(For more information regarding
conditions in the Mexican jail
see Tightwire March-April 1976)

I have yet to hear news as to
whether she actually is home yet.

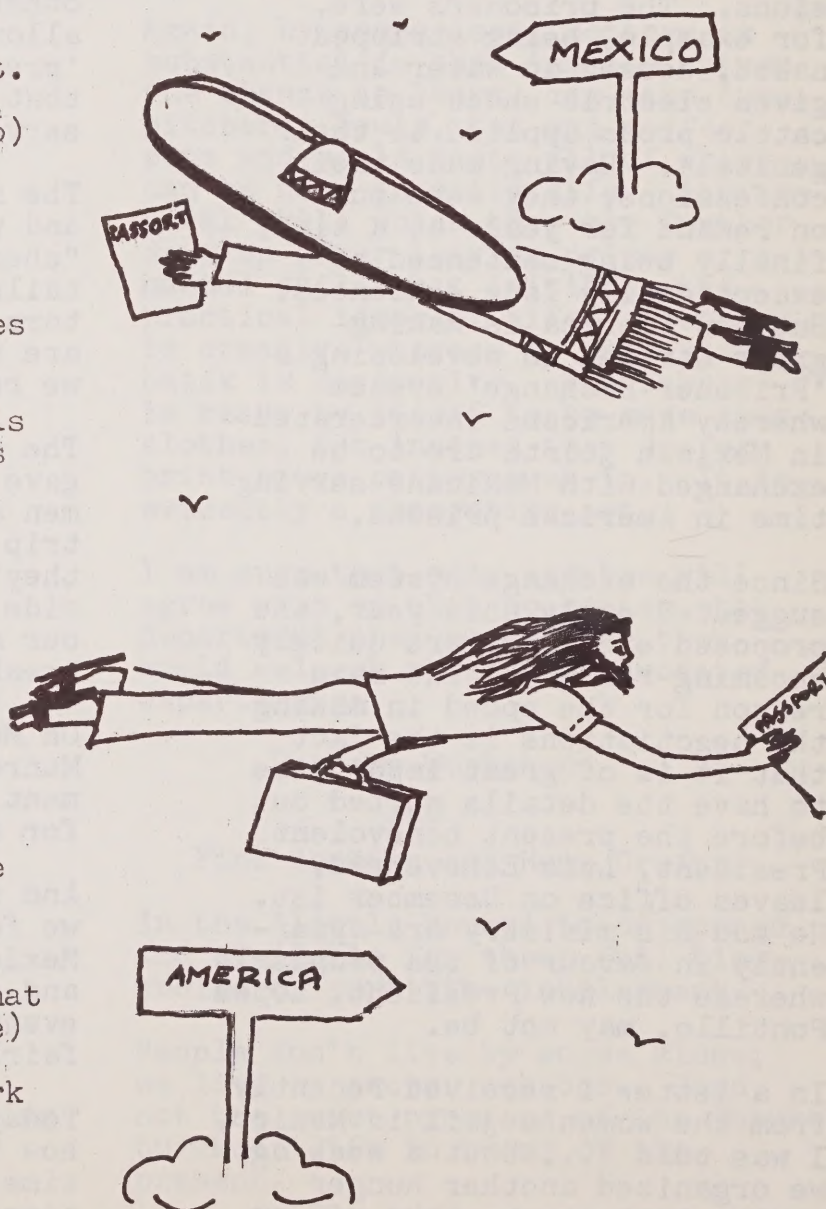
Today's Globe and Mail (Nov.3/76)
has some quite extensive infor-
mation on the situation as it
stands now, plus some coverage
on what the returning Americans
can expect to step into on
their return. The article states
that '....the greatest problem
is that once repatriated, U.S.
prisoners would demand new trials
or obtain writs of habeas corpus
on the grounds that they were
convicted on confessions ex-
tracted through torture, or
simply had been unfairly found
guilty. Prisoners might there-
fore be freed soon after they
returned to the United States.'

All this starts me thinking...
what is happening about the
exchange situation that ex-
Solicitor General Warren Almand
spoke about when he spoke to the
Inmate Committee here a few
months ago. We were told that
his office was looking into the
situation quite seriously and that
non-Canadians (which includes me)
could hope that in the near
future they might be able to work
out their beefs in their own
countries.

Considering that a part of the
so-called 'rehabilitation' plan

entails being near to one's family,
I think that some follow up work
should be done on this point. Plus
the salient point that we are here,
filling your jails, and using up
your tax money (to the tune of
fifteen thousand dollars a year per
inmate).

Does that hurt you sufficiently in
the region of your pockets for you
to go out and lobby for the de-
portation of non-Canadians in your
jails? I doubt it.



ATTENTION INTERNATIONAL SMOKERS, JOKERS AND MIDNIGHT TOKERS

A special lady, a student at the Instituto Allende in Mexico is busy putting together a book of words primarily concerned with people who have done time/are doing time or have brushed with the law regarding soft dope (which she qualifies as grass, hash and derivatives, regardless of what you consider soft dope to be!)

The entire book is to be a patchwork of pieces written by you and I mean YOU. The project is unfortunately held up because YOU are not getting your creative hats on, your typing fingers out and your asses in gear.

If you feel that you have some heavy/light/funny/tragic or whatever type of stories relative to your bust/incarceration or near miss to contribute to the project, put your words into an envelope and address it to:

Mary Jane Bannister
Instituto Allende
San Miguel Allende
G.T.O. Mexico

She is also looking for art work that is relavent.

If you feel somewhere in the back of your mind that the laws are maybe a teeny bit hard (?) try doing something positive and creative about it. Take this chance to voice your opinions. Say it heavy or say it light.....but say it!

Legalize Pot and



Free the People...

WHAT NEXT..?
by CM.

If you are female and between the ages of 40 and 55, it would be advisable to think twice before deciding to testify in a court case even if you are the plaintiff. Why? In September, the Toronto courts set an unusual precedent as to reliable testimony.

A middle-aged woman brought charges against a man for indecent exposure after he was found to be urinating on the sidewalk in front of her house. Appalled by the action, she called the police (which, you will agree, is what every law abiding citizen should do in the face of a crime). He was arrested and set for trial.

During the testimony of the star witness (the middle-aged woman), the judge asked her age. At this point you are probably wondering what her age would have to do with the charge at hand. In actuality, in a normal court hearing, it wouldn't unless she was the defendant, however, this was to be a different kind of court case.

It seems that, on the basis of reliable information, the judge decided that at that age, or thereabouts, her testimony was at best unreliable for she was suffering from the universal malady of menopause. He felt that, since this action took place at dusk and, since she was most likely suffering from menopause, identification would have had to have been difficult. Little matter that he was on the sidewalk and she was sitting on her porch. As a result of this astute observation on the judge's part, the case was dismissed.

I never realized that menopause affected a woman's eyesight or, that she became a babbling idiot with no idea of right and wrong. It is nice to know that when a woman reaches her 'prime' of life her testimony is labelled unreliable and her morals of no consequence before the law courts.

Hmmmmmm...maybe I can use it if I find myself before the courts at that age. My defense.....I am suffering from menopause!



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- * A BUS SERVICE Leaving Toronto 5 days per week carrying visitors to the Kingston Federal Penitentiaries
 - * A FAMILY COUNSELLOR To help the Federal inmate's families with their problems
 - * A COUNSELLOR Who works with the inmates in Federal Institutions
 - * THE TORONTO OFFICE An information centre for families and liason between the families and the Federal Institutions
- *****



THE OPTOMIST.

THE FOX AND THE LAMBS
A BEAST FABLE

by Rose Wu

Once upon a time, a fox and his brothers wanted to eat up all the lambs in the area. The fox thought to himself, 'There are a hundred lambs here, if they knew my full intentions, they might all fight to resist me. If they all rush at me, I could not win, even with my sharp paws and teeth, but instead be crushed by their tender feet.' So, he decided to use some sly tricks and fancy talk.

First of all, he set fire to the surrounding area and started howling. "Danger! Danger! Watch the fire, run for shelter, lambs dear!" He had his brothers doing the same. Soon the lambs were affected by the commotion and panic. They were led and driven by the foxes into a large cave. Then, the foxes guarded the entrance to keep all the lambs inside. Whenever the lambs wanted to leave, the foxes growled and threw stones down.

The fox now pulled his next trick. He said, "There's a large meadow with clear springs near my place. Who would like to share the pasture?" Eight lambs went and were devoured separately.

Then he came back and noticed some particularly strong and robust lambs and his mouth watered. He thought, 'As long as these live, I'll never be able to break through the mass.' So, he said to the flock. "These robust ones eat so much soon there will be nothing left for you. Better drive them out so you can have all the grass." Some lambs became really jealous and

selfish and so they did as the fox suggested. Twenty lambs were thus pushed out and devoured.

Then the fox came back and said to the lambs separately, "Those strong lambs with white brows came from the other side of the mountain. They drink a lot and will soon drink up all the water."

"Those lambs with golden spectres on the back like good grass and will let nobody share it."

"Those lambs with black feet like running; they'll leave no room for anyone else."

The lambs listened and were much persuaded and became fearful and distrustful towards each other. So, instigated by the fox and started by a minor squabble, they soon engaged in a big fight against each other. Twenty lambs of different colours died and the fox dragged them out and ate them.

Later on, the fox came back and found some of the lambs had become restless in the cave and ran around making plaintive noises. So, he said, "These are sick and must be abandoned or they will infect the whole flock." The lambs much frightened believed him. So, twelve lambs were abandoned and eaten up.

Then, when the number of lambs had diminished, the fox, now getting short of excuses, came up with an arrogant demand. He said, "You should thank me for giving you so much advice. Now I need some servants to clean my place, but even as servants, you'll eat better than here." Eight lambs believed him; went and were devoured.

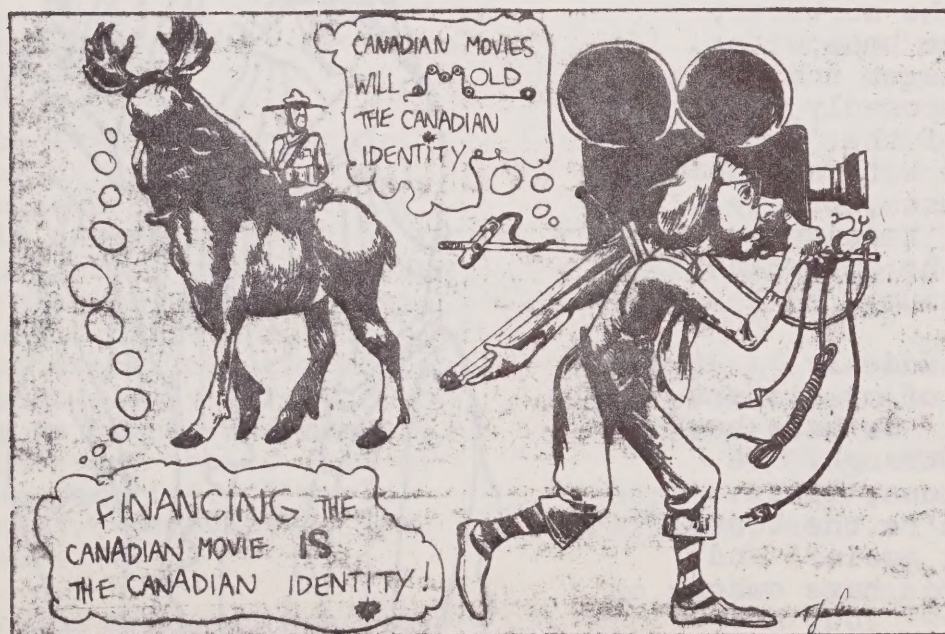
There were not many lambs left (a-

bout thirty) so the foxes, now grown in number, didn't bother making up stores or excuses. He simply said, "Tonight I must have two lambs for supper. Abandon two or I'll swoop in and kill the whole flock."

The lambs, by then much weakened were very frightened and gave up two hoping the rest would be spared.

When the fox had finished eating them, he came back and repeated the demand. The lambs gave up two more again hoping the rest would be spared, but the foxes kept coming back.

This recurred for fifteen weeks until every lamb was eaten up.



FROM - 'THIS MAGAZINE'

I think...'everything that lives changes'...and continuing my thoughts...'a seed becomes a plant which becomes a flower which becomes...etc...etc...' I think...

'I was born; a female child; grew towards adulthood and became a bonafide, certified, mechanically perfect WOMAN.' How do I come to that conclusion? I know because I carried out the nine month gestation test and passed with flying colors.

'Born to Caro, a bonny, bouncing baby'

But stop.....

Think again, woman, is that enough? To have produced a live offspring...is that really proof of womanhood? What about all those things I have failed so dismally at? The wife bit, for example. The tiger in bed; the pussycat at the feet of my man; the scarlet whore; the innocent child; the nurturer; the comforter; the housewife; the household manager and all the rest that supposedly goes into the making of the 'Perfect Wife'. I grew up with all that, dolls, doll's houses, pretty bows and ribbons, keeping my legs crossed at the knees and on and on ad nauseum.

But, now I have suddenly changed and many of my sisters have changed too. We have become different, strange. We are asking questions, like: 'So you think you're the boss, bud? Well, think again!' and 'You think that you have ownership over my body? You, Mr. Lawmaker, decide if I can have a legal abortion; can sue me for infidelity in marriage and decide that I can't sue for the

same; can take away my children if I choose to live in a lesbian relationship.' You want more examples? Just look around you.

A new strength has come to women. A new awareness. We are striving to break out of our stereotype. We are beginning to fill your board rooms, your stock exchanges, your universities and yes, even your prisons. Why? Because we are beginning to see ourselves as complete human beings and no more as mere extensions of your egos. We have peeked your historic plan, you see. We have understood that we actually, biologically only need one of you to perpetuate the race.

So, start thinking gentlemen, and if, when, the time comes, you want to be the one remaining survivor, you had better start working on who's side you are gonna be on.



NO REASON TO PANIC

by Marcella Levi

At last the moment has arrived. The wings of the big silver bird are proudly spreading in the first spring sunlight, gathering their strength, preparing to lift us up into the sky any moment now.... Earsplitting engine-music all around us.

It is such a familiar sound, such a familiar feeling; the slight nausea....the low whistle in my ears.

In the past two and a half years I have sat here, in this same seat, at least a hundred times, and every time it was as much real as it was a dream. But, never quite as exciting as this.

They told me all along; the Parole Board, my C.O., my friends: "You've got your Parole!"

"No!" I said to them, "It's not true. See! I'm still here. I won't believe it until the plane lifts me off the ground and I can see Canada beneath me. Then I'll know."

Well, now even that moment of truth has arrived and I still don't believe it. I pinch my arm again and again until it hurts and my neighbour starts casting awkward glances in my direction. After awhile there's nothing left to do but stare into the cotton clouds that slowly surround us while we go higher and higher. Flying in a sky that's full of limestone memories. A world left behind. Forever??? I'm not so sure.

Then a voice comes on the loud-speaker: "Ladies and gentlemen, please fasten your seatbelts and abstain from smoking." Sigh!

Something in my stomach wants to get out. I must have fallen asleep, time must have slipped through my dreams....crossed the ocean in no time today!

I hear little sounds of nervous chatter around me. A lot of question marks are suspended in the air....people are restless. "Maybe not yet there...." I wonder.

"Ladies and gentlemen," the metal voice continues with a conspicuous tremble, "zere iz no reezon to paneec! Becooze of slight defficultees ere een zee cockpeet, vee are forced to change ou coorse and reeturn to ou point of take-off. Vee will land een Montreal een about 45 minutes."

I haven't slept! No, no. I'm wide awake. The voice keeps sounding in my head...no reason to panicland in Montreal.....Canada??? Montreal??? Forever left behind??? What's happening and who are those funny voices back there????

All these questions go through my head, barely kept in balance by my Virgo-ratio. Come-on relax, this is the age of hi-jacking. One must accept the risks of flying in a plane. But....but....who wants to go to Canada??? Certainly Yasser Arafat's friends have no interest in Maple Syrup!

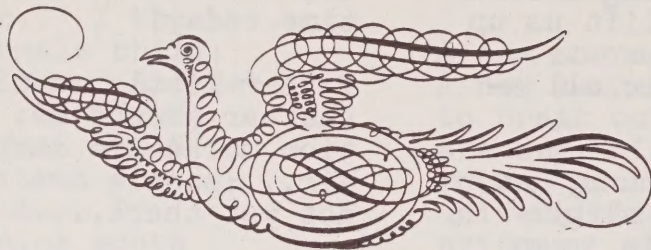
Nor do I! I take my passport out of my pocket and drop a tear on the first page, that says"

DEPORTED FROM CANADA
application for return can be filed after 5 years.

No reason to panic????

Hello, you guys!! I'm back !!
Five years for illegal entry!!

Next time I get my Parole, I
won't believe it until we hit
the ground on the other side..
... and even then!



FROM - 'STATUS OF WOMEN.'

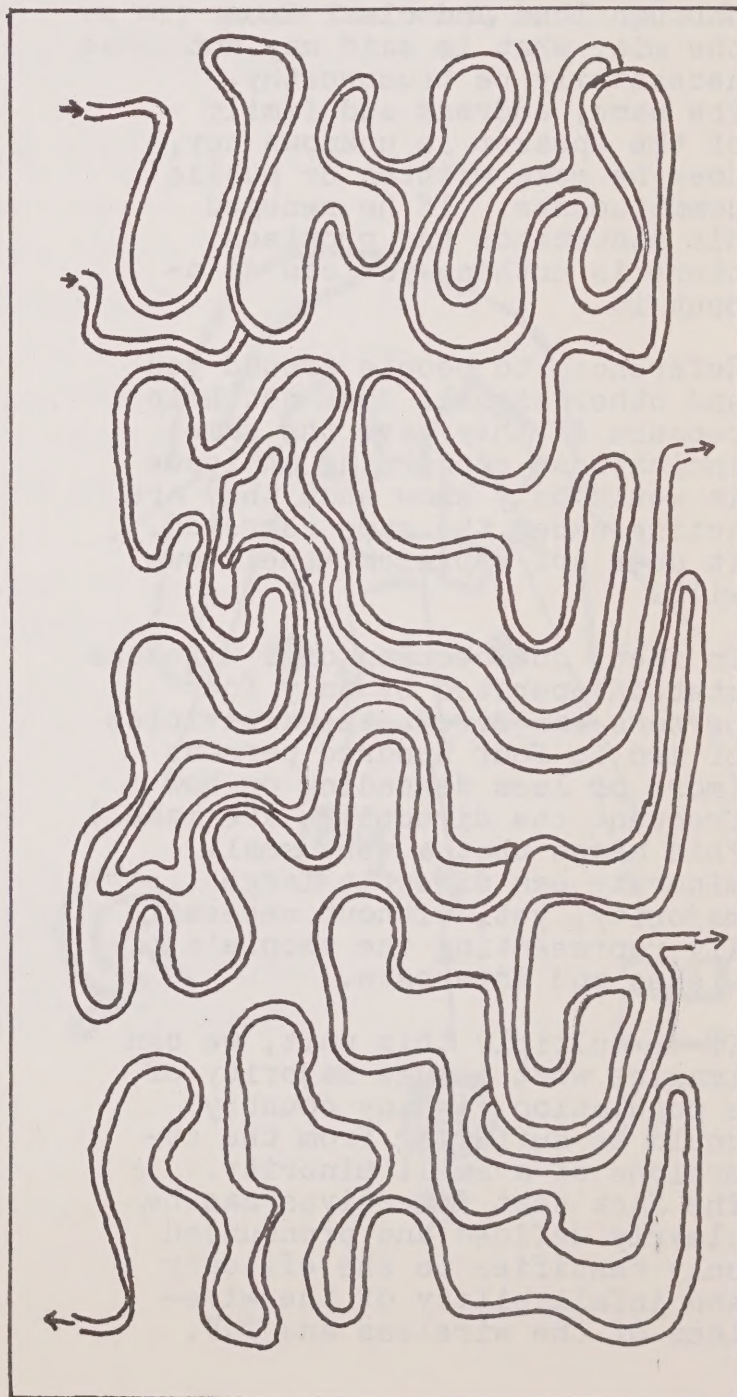
One is locked up with a bunch of emotions, crying fibers congregating and dispersing groups of muscles. I have no mental shackles; no one can imprison my mind, though I am sure people have captivated it for periods of time. My mind is free so long as it remains on a reasonable social level as accepted by the ruling majority of society. One is locked up with so much emotion - it flows around.

I like to think - it never helped the world - my thinking, but it does not hinder. I don't really know why I'm here. I did not premeditate or even carry out my crime, but was accused of it. I don't want to touch your sons and daughters, Sir. I don't mean to wish them anything but health and happiness. I thought only that it was the land of golden opportunities, Sir.

I came from a poor land - a land full of stick people and skeleton animals. There is a lot of starvation; the land does not produce enough for its people, but I am sure that in time with modern technological revolutions there will be enough for everyone. Disease is prevalent but can be controlled. Many children go hungry with the old men and women; they sit and cry on the edge of the street their swollen bellies, their dry, dirty, irritating skin; the clothes well washed in cold and sometimes filthy water. Their heads are full of persistent bugging animals. They sit and cry all day for want of food. Not always quantity, but they need variety and it is scarce and expensive. They never know the luxuries of baths and soap and shoes. Some

may say it is not our fault - but whose fault is it? It is not theirs; they are the innocent victims of nature and a poor country.

I arrived in a rich land - a land rich with people, pasture, produce, education. The men who arrested me at the airport said they were sorry - that is kind but it does not help.



USURPTION BY WIRELESS

by Rose Wu

Over the years many people have developed an awesome reverence to wireless messages to the point that they slight or often ignore human people and voices spoken to their ears. Some even go to the extreme of believing nothing that does not come through the wireless or radio.

This is very dangerous because though the voices may come through loud and clear from the mic, what is said may not necessarily be trustworthy. The name, address and family of the speaker is unknown nor, does he make written or public commitments. If he reneged his statements and promises there is nothing you can do about it.

References to people around you and other signals does not help because if they gave the same indications concerning an issue it would only show that they are acting under the same coercion. It does not represent their own will.

In fact, one section of a wireless station operated by only four persons can direct the activities of two to four hundred persons (more or less depending on how frequent the directives are made.) This means that a very small minority can direct a large majority, yet, without necessarily representing the people's wishes and interests.

If we multiply this unit, we can imagine what a huge majority of a population (in any country) could be suffering from the coercions of a small minority. The fact that directives can be clearly defined and pronounced only testifies to the efficacy and infallibility of the wireless and T.V.

mechanisms not to the moral character of the operators.

What if the stations are occupied (by force) and controlled by a group of purely profit orientated people? They would issue directives that bring in financial gains for themselves in spite of losses of public interests of health.

Or, what if they are controlled by a mercenary group that devises extensive internal strife in order to diminish the people and increase its own?

Or, what if they are controlled by a foreign or selfish clan who take on the disguise of traditional images and language, but secretly proceed to usurp the land?

It is in fact not very difficult to discern whether a directive is good or not. Why not be practical and judge whether it is good for the people or not; whether it means progress or regression; whether it is honorable or deceitful; whether it is noble or vulgar.

Thus, from judging each directive, especially the crucial ones, one may discern to some extent whether the operators act on self-interest or public benefit.

However some people are told not even to consider or judge an order; just do as they are told. If they enact orders such as the following, they are sure to degenerate and let the people down. - -

- told to reject good culture and cultural people and support bad culture and poor cultural forms and products

- told to throw out good projects (in various fields) and support much lesser ones

- some workers told to commit sabotage that could have serious consequences

- lower classes told to commit sabotages and stealth against their better kins with the result that they are all diminished and fall lower still

- orders to do or say certain things that bring about conflict and disintegration of the family; sometimes causing a complete split

The usurpation: a careful calculator would not give all the bad orders at once, at the same place and time or to the same person; nor would he place pressure on large areas all at once. But, he would camouflage it with cheerful news in between; compensation or recompases, taking the most valuable and replacing with minor gains.

Thus the people could be deceived in slow degrees until they trust and obey blidly and without being conscious of it, use their will and aspirations, their judgement and power of action and become coerced into a degenerated and slavish existence.

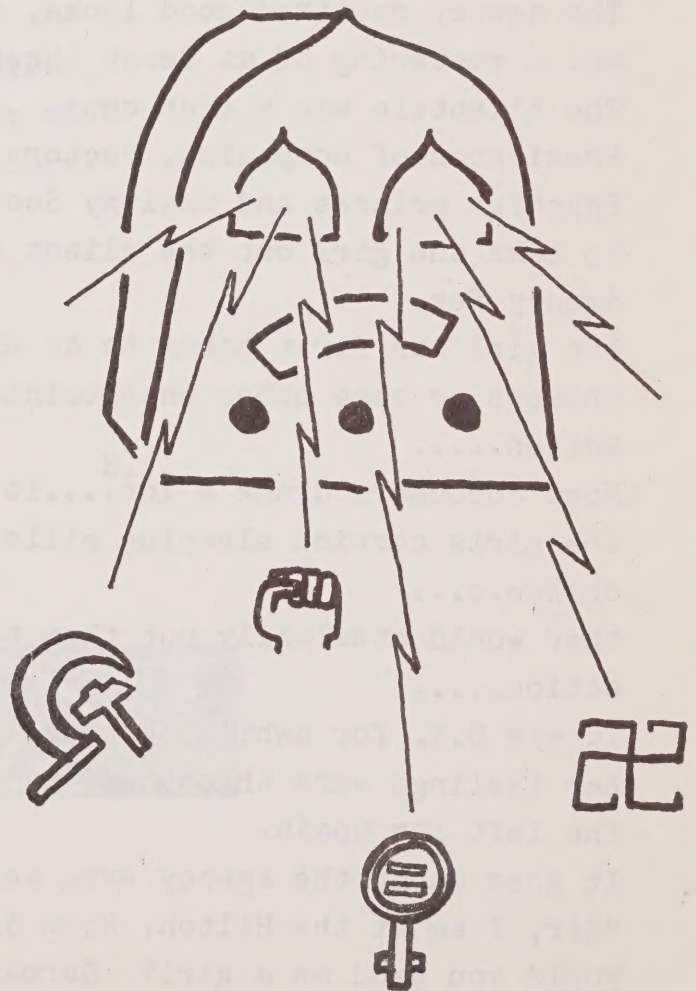
The more unquestionably yeilding the mass is, the more easily the usurpation by a minority clan (possibly foreign or under foreign influence) can take place through unreasonable or unexplained directives in all fields and also through the control of mating, marriages, births, medicine, murders, civil strife and even wars.

The process of encroachment and usurpation can go on gradually step by step until the hidden minority clan multiplies to huge dimensions and replaces the ignorant populace which by then dwindles to nil.

Practical ways of life: In retrospect, one must agree that

it is more practical and reliable to examine everyone and everything that comes into our life. Discuss all important matters carefully with the people involved; speculate the circumstances and judge what we should do in each instance. After all, we are trained or educated to do our work; why shouldn't we make use of our intelligence.

It is through the true support of the people's needs, interests and benefit and an absolutely necessary sense of moral responsibility to the public and to our posterity that we may guide our work, actions and behavior.



ALL NATIONS ESCORT AGENCY

by D.F. Martin

She lived in England for awhile,
but London was very expensive and money was not in the air
like in America.

So she decided on high class prostitution,
she went into different agencies, and settled on "All Nations
Escort Agency"--it seemed the best;
the minimum she could make was two hundred dollars a shot
which meant 200 dollars a night.....

The girls in the agency were quite interesting;
they came from all over the world: China, Japan, Yugoslavia,
U.S.A., Italy, Canada.

They were mostly travellers; all had good education - University
degrees.

The agency required good looks, sophisticated clothing, class
and a mastering of at least three languages.

The clientele was a rich one:

Presidents of companies, Doctors, Royalty, Arabian oil owners,
Egyptian princes and wealthy Scottish farmers

To take the girl out the client had to pay an extra 60 dollars
agency fee.

The girl was first taken to an expensive dinner; then on to the
theatre or some other entertainment, finally arriving at their
suites.....

Most customers drank a lot....it was a policy of the agency--
the girls carried sleeping pills with them and if they had the
chance.....

they would stealthily put them to sleep before giving them any
action.....

It was O.K. for awhile, but she sensed that
her feelings were threatened by this kind of work.
She left for Spain.

It goes on at the agency even as before:.....

"Sir, I am at the Hilton, Room 553

Would you send me a girl? German if you have;
I'd like her tall and well built."

"Yes sir, I have exactly what you are looking for...

A very nice girl.....

THE MORNING AFTER

I live in the still
 of the morning,
Thinking of you
 in the twilight
 of the sun.
You have fulfilled
 my desires,
 drowned me with
 pleasure.
I hesitate but a
 moment,
 and sigh,
The morning after.

E. .



Looking out the windows
Staring at grey walls.....
Dreaming of a better world
Where I wish I was.

Looking at the people
Living on their dreams;
Listening to authority
Collapsing at the seams.

Once I wasn't sure,
Now I know I'm right--
It doesn't matter what they do
They'll never win the fight.

And so I sit here looking
Staring at grey walls.....
Taking heart in how I feel;
Reviving ancient laws.

The dice were tossed
Decisions made;
Your life they decided
Didn't make the grade.

And so you sit
In a world so tight;
Living not in reality
But in a scene of might.

You try to cope
In a world not yours--
Shutting out frustration,
Closing all the doors....
Letting trips go by
That you otherwise would not....
Hoping that sanity
Is a commodity not bought.

Day by week by month goes by--
Finally you're free?
To live your life the way you can
In the establishment-society.

CM



PLEASE DON'T CLAP

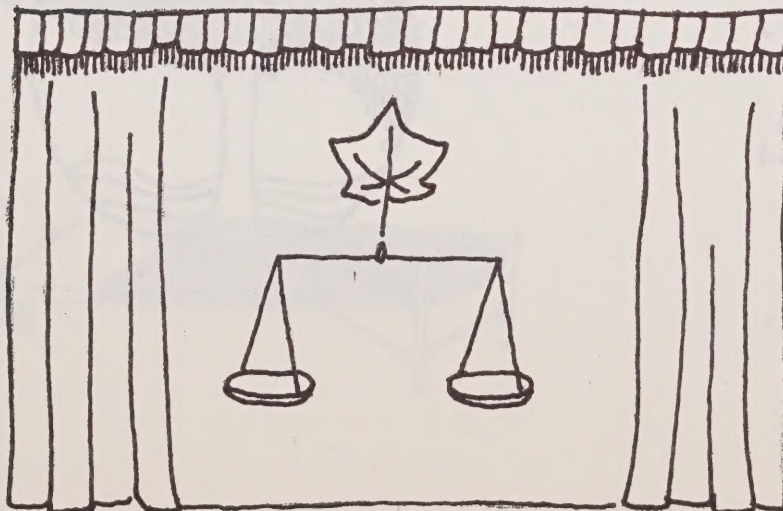
Vulgar charms and tattooed arms
Mingled with macho myth
Mincing Queens who reign supreme
Over all they encounter with.

Tailored rules to fit the role
Of every player's trauma
C.O.'s, L.U.'s to give the cues
For each enfolding drama.

The stage is set the critics wait
With poisoned pens in hand
For curtain rise and the play to begin
With a wave from the warden's wand.

A passionate plea to end each act
T.A., Parole or Jet?
Encore, Encore
O No! Please No
O Canada
Forgive and Forget.

Ken Farrell



Hold fast to dreams
 For if dreams die
 Life is a broken - winged bird
 That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
 For when dreams go
 Life is a barren field
 Frozen with snow.

by Langston Hughes



Ride a wild horse
 with purple wings
 striped yellow and black
 except his head
 which must be red.

Ride a wild horse
 against the sky
 hold tight to his wings....
 before you die.
 Whatever else you leave undone,
 once, ride a wild horse
 into the sun.

by Hannah Kahn

If it were up to me,
 I'd be a tree.
 I could nest
 the little birds,
 When they were
 put down to rest.
 I'd watch the seasons
 come and go
 And hear the whistle
 of the north wind
 blow.
 If I were a tree....
 but I'm just me.

by E.J.



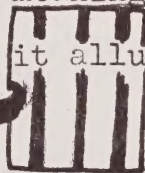
SHADOWS

Swirling shadows round about
Dancing past in wild delight
I try to reach the tail of one
But it alludes me.

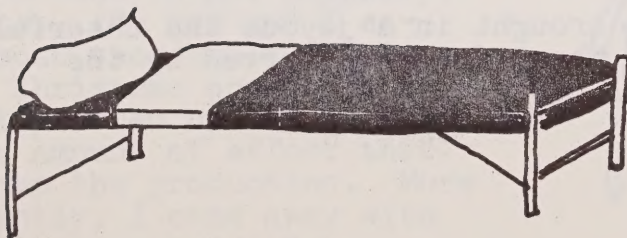
Running blindly along in space
going this way; going that
it twists and turns in mad gyration
But it alludes me.

Reaching as high as high can be
Going lower than low really is
Resting here and floating there
But it alludes me.

Falling back into restless sleep
Sliding slowly into black oblivion
The meaning was there....
But it alludes me.



CM



ENTERTAINMENT

The entertainment at the the P4W has been going great. One group after another comes in, thanks to the efforts of Lucy Carr and others, bringing with them a moment of pure enjoyment. Coming in to who knows what, they find an audience equal to any night club. I can dig it; it is the only time the girls let themselves go and dance it off.

Ranging from folk singing to rock and roll and from blues to comedy, they have brought a much needed respite from the greyness of Christmas in jail.

Here is an apercu of the people that came in November-December:

- November 20 Moses Scarlet (folk) presented by Scare Crow Restaurant
- November 21 Misty (rock and roll group) it was comedy and laughter with them plus some fantastic music
- December 5 The Mighty Pope (a group with the hit single 'Having a Love Affair') quite a soul brother the Mighty Pope
- December 12 The Kings and Little One (club music) some very colorful jokes and music
- December 15 E. Fry surprised us with a troupe of folk singers
- December 21 The Chapel presented the Kingston Citizen Group (folk singing)
- December 24 Two dynamic D.J.s came in -Larry Brazil and Dusty Bently - soc hop dance

THANK YOU EVERYBODY FOR COMING IN -
HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN

Parties -

The Salvation Army Yearly Christmas Party--entertained with Christmas carols, old time hits and all kinds of goodies.
THANK YOU!!

The E. Fry Christmas Party--they brought in a joyous and cheerful Santa who had gifts for everyone then, food was served by the E. Fry members. THANK YOU!!

THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The climax of the month was the Christmas Concert; it was just great. Happiness and Joy was all over the P4W. Most girls were reunited with their families and friends; about 300 guests came in the joint from 6pm. to 10pm.

The production took three months to put together with girls making costumes, designing and constructing sets, organizing lighting and trading ideas for skits. For only that length of time to work it out; the girls put on a first class performance.

Ballerinas in tutus and work boots; the fag with the bag; the dirty old man and the brew bear cavorting across the stage. Songs (mimed by Glad it's Night and the Peeps and Jay and the Birds), Christmas carols, modern dancing and comic skits were just a few of the things to be seen that night. Babes in Toyland, a colourfully costumed and choreographed dance number, was the high point of the evening.

Mr. Chinnery, the director, presented red carnations to the director and producer - Sandy McDonnel and Marge Carlson. In his speech he said, "....the women in here never cease to amaze me..."

Mr. Trono, the regional director, was also in the audience. In an excerpt from a letter which he sent to Mr. Chinnery, he wrote...'My son and I enjoyed most thoroughly the inmate's Christmas presentation. I was impressed by the ingenuity and the amount of effort that went into the production. More importantly, I came away with "The Christmas Spirit" because of the harmony and good fellow-

ship displayed by all present.

I would be grateful if you would extend my thanks to the Committee for the invitation and my congratulations to those involved for the fine effort. I hope I will be invited next year.' Mr. Chinnery also added...'I would like to add my congratulations to those of Mr. Trono's, and to wish you continued success in this type of endeavor.'

Tightwire staff would also like to congratulate everyone who participated in the concert, and, a special thanks to the people who made this concert possible.

We had a fantastic audience. Thank you for making it a successful evening.



CAPRICORN

22 December - 21 January

Ruler: Saturn

Attributes: negative, cardinal earth sign, feminin, nocturn, violent. It governs the knees. It corresponds to the tenth house in the zodiac.

Symbolizes: The earth, the mountains, isolated places, misfortune, falls of fortunes, the night, the old people, the deformed and sordid things.

In the world it rules: The world of politics, the government, the ministers, the people with experience, the diplomats, the mines, the fields, stable wealth, the ambitions of career.

Favorable and unfavorable aspects: The sun in capricorn is a good indication that the person will elevate himself in life with the help of people with high position.

The positive capricorns have a lot of honour, are responsible, and inspire confidence. They like to play frank and by that they gain respect and esteem from their surroundings. The main characteristics of the capricorn are ambition and distrust; with that comes melancholy.

You like to think before you speak and then take time before going into action which is premeditated to the extent that you falter or run away from anything outside the norm.

The sign capricorn is the most practical of all the twelve in the simple sense of that word and it is the point in the chart where the greatest possible resourcefulness of an individual is to be found.

The capricorns usually meet with some heavy obstacles in the path of desires and progress but, with persistence, patience and concentrated effort they triumph over circumstances.

You are happiest when using control over someone else, and can be excellent in positions of responsibility where others rely on you. Environment and upbringing influence you a great deal. Although you can be judged as self-centered, sacrifice in the cause of duty is not unknown to you.

Your symbolic animal of the zodiac is the goat climbing upwards along the rough path of life and determined to reach the summit.

You are one of the signs that can expect longevity because of the saturn influence.



THE KING'S WHITE HORSE

Beware, my friend, my name is King Heroin,
Known to all as the destroyer of men.
Where first I was born, no one knows,
But I come from the land where the poppy grows.

I'm a world of power, and you'll know it's true;
Use me once, and you'll know it too.
I entered the country without a passport,
Ever since then I've been hunted and sought,
By addicts and pushers and plainclothes dicks,
But most by junkies who want a quick fix.

My little white grains are nothing but waste,
I'm soft and deadly, so bitter to taste.
I'll make a schoolboy forget his books,
And I'll make a world beauty forget her looks.
I'll cause a good husband to cast out his wife,
And send a greedy pusher to prison for life.

I'm King of Crime, the Prince of Corruption,
I'll capture your soul and cause your destruction.
Am I not a just king, a god to behold,
More treasured than diamonds, more precious than gold.

If you wish to hear more of the things I can do,
Of the men I've delighted and the women I slew;
I'll make a man shabby that once dressed so nice,
And all who use me will go down in vice.
I'll control your mind and then your whole brain,
With a full course of torment, first pleasure, then pain.

Ah, the fuzz have taken you from under my wing,
They dare to defy me, I who am king.
Nights you'll toss and turn and won't sleep,
You'll rise in the morning so humble and weak.
You'll be hot, then cold, and you'll vomit and cough,
After ten days of madness you might throw it off.

You'll curse my name, and down me in speech,
But you'd pick me up again if I were in reach.
And nights, when you lie awake planning your fate,
You know I'll be waiting just beyond the gate.

I gave you a warning, you didn't take heed,
So put your feet in the stirrups and mount my steed.
Put your foot in the stirrup and ride me well,
For the white horse of heroin will ride you to hell.



-written by a prisoner
at the Walpole State
Prison

CALORIE REDUCING DIET

Monday -

Breakfast : Weak Tea
Lunch : 1 bouillion cube in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup diluted water
Dinner : 1 pigeon thigh - 2 ounces prune juice
(gargle only)

Tuesday -

Breakfast : Scraped crumbs from burnt toast
Lunch : One doughnut hole (without sugar)
Dinner : 2 jellyfish skins - 1 gallon dehydrated water

Wednesday -

Breakfast : Shredded eggshell skins
Lunch : Navel from an orange
Dinner : 3 eyes from Irish potato (diced)

Thursday -

Breakfast : Boiled-out stains from tablecloth
Lunch : $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen poppy seeds
Dinner : Bee's knees and mosquito knuckles
sauteed with vinegar

Friday -

Breakfast : 2 lobster antennae
Lunch : 1 guppy fin
Dinner : Filet of soft shell crab claw

Saturday -

Breakfast : 4 chopped banana seeds
Lunch : Boiled butterfly liver
Dinner : Jellyfish vertebra à la Bookbinders

Sunday -

Breakfast : Pickled humming bird tongue
Lunch : Prime ribs of tadpole
Dinner : Aroma of empty custard pie plate -
tossed paprika and clover leaf (one salad)

Note: All meals are to be eaten under microscope to avoid extra portions.....

Centre of Lumbarology

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Toronto, Ont

mss 145

